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REMARKS

Claims 1,3-5, 7-14, 16, and 18-25 are pending after this amendment.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 and 11 are amended to recite at least one of the following limitations: the adhesive member includes a polyol plasticizer (support for which resides at page 10), the cleaning sheet is used by application of water (support for which resides at page 12), the supporting sheet has a basis weight of 5 to 200 g/m² (support for which resides at page 4), the active ingredient member has a thickness of not more than 5 mm (support for which resides at page 4), the isolating layer has a basis weight of 2 to 100 g/m² (support for which resides at page 4), and the adhesive member has a thickness of not more than 5 mm (support for which resides at page 4). Claims 15 and 17 are cancelled. Claims 14 and 16 are amended to be dependent upon new claim 18, as well as deleting the words "high molecular". Claim 6 is rewritten as new claim 18 directed to the embodiment of Figure 4 as described at pages 16-17 of the specification. New claims 19-22 correspond to pending claims 7-10. New claims 22-25 are added which state that the cleaning assembly has a total thickness of 0.2 to 10 mm (support for which resides at page 5). No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to by the Examiner due to the presence of the words "one surface". As suggested by the Examiner, the claim has been amended to instead recite the words "one side". The objection is accordingly believed to be moot.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one)

Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph one) on the ground that the rejected claims add new matter. This rejection respectfully is traversed.

In response, claims 15 and 17 are cancelled. Claims 14 and 16 now depend from new claim 18 which is directed to the embodiment of pages 16 and 17 pertaining to Figure 4 - i.e., where the active member is present in the form of a multitude of particulates which are encapsulated within the isolating layer.

The rejection is thus without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two)

Claims 1 and 3-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two) as not distinctly claiming the invention. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In response, claim 1 is amended to delete the phrase "the adhesive composition". As to claims 14-17, claims 15 and 17 are cancelled. Claims 14 and 16 are amended to delete reference to the phrase "high molecular".

The rejection is thus believed to be without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10179498. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

The present invention is directed to an adhesive mold removing cleaning sheet having a liquid-permeable supporting sheet, an active ingredient member comprising a mold removing ingredient, a liquid-permeable adhesive member comprising a hydrophilic adhesive, and an isolating layer. The isolating layer separates the active ingredient member from the adhesive member. The isolating member separates the active ingredient member from the adhesive member but which permits migration of the mold removing ingredient to at least a portion of the adhesive upon use. The isolating layer may be, for example, in the form of a layer on the adhesive layer, or in the form of a coating which

coats the surface of particles of the active ingredient member contained in the adhesive layer.

The cited reference fails to suggest the claimed invention. At Figure 7 of the reference (to which the Examiner makes reference in the Official Action), a three-layered structure is disclosed comprised of a backing layer containing a mold removing component, a support sheet and a dropping off prevention sheet. An adhesive layer 33a is provided along the lateral edges of the dropping off prevention sheet. The cited reference fails to suggest the claimed invention.

Applicants' invention as defined by claims 1 and 11 is directed to a four layer structure comprised of a supporting sheet, an active ingredient member containing a mold removing ingredient, a hydrophilic adhesive member and an isolating layer which isolates the active ingredient member from the adhesive member.

The isolating layer of applicants' invention separates the active ingredient member from the adhesive member but also permits migration of the mold removing ingredient from the active ingredient member to at least a portion of the adhesive upon use.

A comparison of the embodiments of applicants' claims and that of Figure 7 of the reference makes apparent the fact that the reference does not suggest the claimed invention.

In the claimed invention, even in wet conditions, liquid present in the hydrophilic adhesive layer does not pass into the mold removing ingredient layer. Therefore, it is possible to safely store the present invention and use a mold removing ingredient having higher concentration without undesirable scattering.

In contrast to the present invention, the device of the cited reference is not designed to permit migration of the mold removing ingredient to at least a portion of the adhesive layer upon use. The device of the reference teaches away from the claimed invention by placement of the adhesive layer only along the lateral edges of the device.

Indeed, Figures 7-9 of the reference confirm that the adhesive layer is only provided along the lateral edges of the device. As such, the mold removing component of the reference need only pass through the dropping off prevention layer, as no adhesive layer is attached to the dropping off prevention layer at any point which would permit the mold removing component to pass through the dropping off prevention layer to the adhesive layer.

The fact that the reference does not employ an adhesive in the manner claimed leads to the disadvantageous result that contact between the mold removing material and the object is not optimized, as the dropping off prevention layer (through which the mold removal ingredient passes) is not caused to be adhered to the

surface of the object. Instead, the dropping off prevention layer is merely drawn into contact with the wall surface due to the presence of the adhesive layers 33a along the lateral edges of the disclosed device.

The rejection is thus improper and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '498 in view of Thies U.S. Patent No. 4,464,317. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In response, claim 6 is cancelled and rewritten as new claim 18, with new claims 19-22 depending from claim 18. The deficiencies of the '498 reference are discussed at length above. The additionally cited Thies patent does not cure the deficiencies of the '498 reference for several reasons.

Primarily, no suggestion or motivation resides in Thies to modify the '498 reference to result in the embodiment of new claim 18 - i.e., where particles of the mold removing agent are coated with a water-soluble isolating coating. Further, Thies is deficient from the standpoint that it focuses on the formation of a water-insoluble, inorganic coating on the active agent. The active agent is only released upon fragmentation of the coated particles, a step which does not occur upon use of

applicants' claimed invention. Indeed, this is in direct contrast to the applicants' embodiment where a water-soluble coating is provided.

In view of the above, the rejection is without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 12-13 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 12-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '498 in view of JP '212. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

The deficiencies of the JP '498 reference are discussed in detail above. The additionally cited JP '212 reference, cited to teach the use of a spun lace nonwoven material, does not otherwise cure such deficiencies.

The rejection is thus without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 14-17 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '498 in view of JP '838. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended (it is noted that rejected claims 15 and 17

are cancelled and that only rejected claims 14 and 16 remain pending).

The deficiencies of the JP '498 reference are discussed in detail above. The additionally cited JP '838 reference, cited to teach the use of a polyhydric alcohol as the isolating layer, does not otherwise cure such deficiencies. Further, the Examiner takes the position that the '838 reference teaches that it would be obvious to employ a polyhydric alcohol-coated woven fabric in the claimed invention. However, the rejected claims are directed to the use of the polyhydric alcohol as the isolating layer, not a polyhydric alcohol-coated woven fabric. The Examiner's reliance on the cited references to demonstrate the obviousness of the subject matter of the rejected claims is thus without basis.

The rejection should accordingly be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James W. Hellwege (Registration No. 28,808) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Thrice Amended) An adhesive mold removing cleaning
[sheet] assembly comprising:

a liquid-permeable supporting sheet having a basis weight
of 5 to 200 g/m²;

an active ingredient member comprising a mold removing
ingredient, said active ingredient member having a thickness of
not more than 5 mm;

a liquid-permeable adhesive member having a thickness of
not more than 5 mm comprising a hydrophilic adhesive and a
polyol plasticizer; and

an isolating layer having a basis weight of 2 to 100 g/m²
which separates said active ingredient member from said adhesive
member but which permits migration of said mold removing
ingredient to at least a portion of said adhesive upon use;

wherein said hydrophilic adhesive is at least 30% by weight
of said liquid-permeable adhesive member, said hydrophilic
adhesive has a water content of 0.1% to 60% by weight [of the
adhesive composition, said isolating layer is provided for
separating said active ingredient member and said adhesive
member], wherein said adhesive member substantially covers one
[surface] side of said isolating layer, and said cleaning

assembly [sheet on] upon use being [stuck] adhered [on] to an object to be cleaned by applying the adhesive member [thereof] to the surface of the object and thereafter applying water thereto.

3. (Twice Amended) An adhesive cleaning [sheet] assembly according to claim 1, wherein said mold removing ingredient is provided on said supporting sheet, said isolating layer is provided on said active ingredient member to cover said active ingredient member, and said adhesive is provided on said isolating layer to form said adhesive member.

4. (Amended) An adhesive cleaning [sheet] assembly according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive member has a perforated structure having through-holes.

5. (Twice Amended) An adhesive cleaning [sheet] assembly according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive member is a plurality of adhesive bands arranged in parallel in a width direction of said isolating layer.

7. (Twice Amended) The adhesive cleaning [sheet] assembly according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic adhesive is selected from the group consisting of (i) a polymer having a

salt-forming group, (ii) a nonionic water-soluble polymer, (iii) gelatin, (iv) an emulsion polymer, and (v) a crosslinked product of the polymers (i) to (iv).

8. (Twice Amended) The adhesive cleaning [sheet] assembly according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophilic adhesive is a sodium styrenesulfonate/methacrylic acid copolymer.

9. (Amended) The adhesive cleaning assembly [sheet] according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive member further comprises an ingredient selected from the group consisting of [a plasticizer], a surfactant, a chelating agent and water.

10. (Amended) The adhesive cleaning [sheet] assembly according to claim 1, wherein said water content of said hydrophilic adhesive is 1% to 30% by weight.

11. (Amended) An adhesive mold removing cleaning [sheet] assembly comprising:

a) a liquid-permeable supporting sheet having a basis weight of 5 to 200 g/m²;

b) an active ingredient member comprising a mold removing ingredient;

c) [a liquid-permeable adhesive member comprising a hydrophilic adhesive] an adhesive layer having a thickness of not more than 5 mm comprising a hydrophilic adhesive and a polyol plasticizer; and

d) an isolating layer which separates said active ingredient member from said adhesive member but which permits migration of said mold removing ingredient to at least a portion of said adhesive upon use;

wherein said hydrophilic adhesive [is] comprises at least 30% by weight of said liquid-permeable adhesive member c),

[said isolating layer d) inhibits direct contact between said active ingredient member b) and said liquid-permeable adhesive member c),]

wherein said active ingredient-containing sheet [member] b) is laminated [with] to said isolating layer d), [wherein] the surface of said active ingredient-containing sheet [member] b) is covered with said isolating layer d), and

said adhesive mold removing cleaning [sheet] assembly upon [on] use being [stuck on] adhered to the surface of an object to be cleaned by applying said liquid-permeable adhesive [member] layer c) thereof to the object and thereafter applying water thereto.

12. (Amended) The adhesive mold removing cleaning [sheet] assembly of claim 1, wherein said isolating layer [is] comprises spun lace nonwoven.

13. (Amended) The adhesive mold removing cleaning [sheet] assembly of claim 11, wherein said isolating layer [is] comprises spun lace nonwoven.

14. (Amended) The adhesive mold removing cleaning [sheet] assembly of claim [1] 18, wherein said isolating layer comprises a [high-molecular] polyhydric alcohol.

16. (Amended) The adhesive mold removing cleaning [sheet] assembly of claim 14, wherein said [high-molecular] polyhydric alcohol is [high-molecular] polyethylene glycol.